



3.2 ACTIONS UTILIZED IN ANALYZING CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects for the proposed actions are considered primarily in relationship to other land uses and permitted activities in the watersheds within which PALCO has ownership (i.e., a projection rather than a list approach). This approach is used for such components as water quality and aquatic habitat. These land uses and the management guidelines associated with them are used in the evaluations. These items include the Framework Plans for Humboldt and Mendocino counties (Mendocino County 1993; Humboldt County 1996a), the NCRWQCB Basin Plan, and the FPRs and coho considerations (CDF, 1998b) which regulate and guide timber harvest activities. Information related to these ongoing and projected activities or land uses is contained in the various affected environment sections in the rest of this chapter. Additionally, Section 3.11 evaluates and presents information on land uses in the Project Area. Tables 3.6-7 and 3.6-8 present land use information for the watersheds in the Project Area. New and potentially new species listings of anadromous fish and additional scrutiny related to these listings (i.e., additions to the FESA) were also considered. The relatively static nature of the overall economic trends for Humboldt County (see Section 3.13 Socioeconomics)

was also considered. For wide-ranging species such as the coho salmon or the marbled murrelet, the effects are considered at a wider geographic range (see Sections 3.8.4 and 3.10.2.2, respectively).

Not including PALCO operations, there are approximately 107,000 acres of THPs and 37,000 acres of nonindustrial timber management plans either ongoing or recently completed in Humboldt County. By WAA, the following approximate acreages of THPs are either ongoing or recently completed in the Bear-Mattole WAA (17,000 acres), the Eel River WAA (107,000 acres), the Humboldt WAA (48,000 acres), the Van Duzen WAA (18,000 acres), and the Yager WAA (35,000 acres). These values include PALCO operations.

Currently, several industrial timber companies are engaged in various stages of discussions of potential HCPs with FWS and NMFS. Not including PALCO, there are about 1.2 million acres that could be covered by HCPs in the future. The acreage consists of about 700,000 acres in Humboldt County, 30,000 acres in Del Norte County, and 470,000 acres in Mendocino County. The acreages of THPs and potential HCPs are considered in the cumulative effects analyses in the various sections.